

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application. Please amend claims 1 and 6 as follows:

Listing of the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for use in a computer system that effects secure access to a store, comprising:

receiving a request to access a store from a first process initiated by a requester ~~on a remote server;~~

~~providing said store with an exclusive user id;~~

initiating a second process responsive to said store access request, wherein data generated by said second process being is accessible by to said first process but inaccessible to the requester;

changing a context of said second process to the user id of said store;

providing said store with an exclusive user id;

said second process receiving tokenized credentials from said first process responsive to said request;

said second process performing a lookup of said tokenized credentials;

said second process passing a user id and password associated with said store to said first process if said tokenized credentials are recognized;

communicating between said second first process and said store via private communications channels, said communications channels being inaccessible to the requester; and

said first process obtaining data from said store via said private communications channels responsive to said store access request using said user id and password associated with said store.

2. (original) A method in accordance with claim 1 further comprising: sending the data responsive to said store access request to a downstream process.

3. (original) A method in accordance with claim 1 further comprising: logging said store access request.

4. (original) A method in accordance with claim 3 wherein sending the data responsive to said store access request to a downstream process further comprises never sending the data to the requestor.

5. (original) A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein said computer system employs the UNIX operating system and wherein said context changing comprises invoking the UNIX set user id facility.

6. (currently amended) A computer system comprising:

a data store having an exclusive user id in the computer system;

a system for providing secure access to said data store, said system being configured to receive a request for access to said data store from a first process initiated by a requester ~~on-a-remote-server~~, said exclusive user id being inaccessible to said requester, and configured to initiate a second process responsive to said request for access to said data store, wherein data generated by said second process being is accessible by to said first process but inaccessible to the requester, said second process being responsive to said request for access to said data store by changing its user id to the exclusive user id, said second process being operable to receive tokenized credentials from said first process responsive to said request, said second process being operable to perform a lookup of said tokenized credentials, said second process being operable to pass a user id and password associated with said data store to said first process if said tokenized credentials are recognized, said first process obtaining data responsive to said request for access to said data store; and

private communications channels between said system first process and said data store for communicating and responding to requests for data by said first process using said user id and password associated with said data store, said communications channels being inaccessible to the requester.

7. (original) A computer system according to claim 6 wherein the system for providing secure access is further configured to provide data from said data store to a downstream process.

8. (original) A computer system according to claim 6 wherein the system for providing secure access is further configured to log requests for access to said data store.

9. (new) A method for use in a computer system that operates under the UNIX operating system that effects secure access to a store, comprising:

executing a shell script which creates a data stream containing a tokenized user id and password in order to initiate a request to access a store from a first process initiated by a requester;

said first process initiating a second process responsive to said store access request, said second process and said store being in a protected area, wherein data generated by said second process is accessible to said first process but inaccessible to the requester;

said second process obtaining the tokenized user id and password of the requestor from said first process along said data stream;

changing a context of said second process to the effective user id of said store using the UNIX set user id facility;

said second process providing said store with said effective user id, said effective user id being different from said user id of the requestor;

said second process receiving said tokenized user id and password from said first process responsive to said request;

said second process converting the tokens to said user id and password of the requestor and performing a lookup of said user id and password of the requestor in a credential store;

 said second process passing a user id and password associated with said store to said first process along a second data stream if said user id and password of the requestor are found in said credential store;

 communicating between said first process and said store via a sending inter-process pipe and a receiving inter-process pipe, said first and second inter-process pipes being inaccessible to the requester; and

 said first process obtaining data from said store via said second inter-process pipe responsive to said store access request via said first inter-process pipe using said user id and password associated with said store.

10. (new) A method in accordance with claim 9 further comprising: sending the data responsive to said store access request to a downstream process.

11. (new) A method in accordance with claim 9 further comprising: logging said store access request.

12. (new) A method in accordance with claim 11 wherein sending the data responsive to said store access request to a downstream process further comprises never sending the data to the requestor.